

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USNATO 03368 01 OF 02 031549Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01
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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 03368

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MNUC, NPG
SUBJ: HANDLING THEATER NUCLEAR FORCE MODERNIZATION
AT THE DPC AND SUMMIT

-

SUMMARY: IN THIS MESSAGE, WE OFFER COMMENTS AND
SUGGESTIONS ON POSSIBLE HANDLING OF TNF MODERNIZATION
IN THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM AT THE DPC AND
SUMMIT. WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER PRELIMINARY
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PAGE 02 USNATO 03368 01 OF 02 031549Z

US VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE APRIL 6 NPG PERMREPS'
MEETING, TO SET THE STAGE FOR NPG MINISTERIAL DECISIONS
IN FREDERIKSHAVN. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON
COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE PRIOR TO APRIL 6. END SUMMARY.

1. A QUESTION WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE FORTHCOMING
NPG MINISTERIAL, AS WELL AS AT THE APRIL 6 NPG PERMREPS'

MEETING, WILL BE THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTENT OF ANY NPG REPORTS ON TNF MODERNIZATION WHICH MIGHT BE FORWARDED FROM THE NPG TO THE DPC AND SUMMIT. THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP (HLG) DID NOT ADDRESS THIS SUBJECT IN ANY DETAIL, AND THE CURRENT DRAFT HLG REPORT INVITES THE NPG TO CONSIDER THE MATTER.

2. WE EXPECT NPG MINISTERS TO GIVE DIRECTION ON FURTHER HANDLING OF THE HLG REPORT. WE BELIEVE THE MISSION SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE PRELIMINARY US VIEWS ON APRIL 6 THAT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO SETTING THE STAGE FOR NPG MINISTERS' DECISIONS IN FREDERIKSHAVN.

3. ALLIED CLEARANCES OF THE PRESENT DRAFT HLG REPORT, AS WELL AS THE RESULTS OF NPG MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS, WILL, OF COURSE, DETERMINE HANDLING OF THE SUBJECT AT THE DPC AND SUMMIT. ASSUMING AN NPG CONSENSUS ALONG THE LINES OF THE DRAFT HLG REPORT, THERE WILL BE FIRM BASIS FOR REPORTING PROGRESS ON THIS ASPECT OF THE LTDP.

4. THERE ARE SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS UNIQUE TO THE LONG-TERM TNF PROGRAM.

(A) FROM THE OUTSET TNF MODERNIZATION HAS BEEN HANDLED SEPARATELY AND DIFFERENTLY FROM THE OTHER LTDP TASK FORCES. THUS, THERE IS NO PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENT TO
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PAGE 03 USNATO 03368 01 OF 02 031549Z

HAVE TREATMENT OF TNF MODERNIZATION PARALLEL OTHER LTDP STUDIES.

(B) THE US AND ALLIES HAVE BEEN CONTENT TO SEE THE NUCLEAR MODERNIZATION PROGRAM PROCEED AT A MORE GRADUAL PACE, WITH CLEAR RECOGNITION THAT A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THE WORK WOULD BE SLATED FOR FOLLDW-UP ACTIONS AFTER THE NPG, DPC AND SUMMIT. ANY REPORT ON TNF MODERNIZATION WOULD THUS HAVE THE CHARACTER OF A PROGRESS REPORT.

(C) WE BELIEVE WE MUST DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN CLASSIFIED MATERIAL THE NPG MIGHT FORWARD AND WHAT MIGHT BE INCLUDED ON TNF MODERNIZATION IN ANY PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE LTDP.

5. WITH THESE POINTS IN MIND, CAVEATED BY REALIZATION THAT MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION WOULD ULTIMATELY DETERMINE FUTURE STEPS, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO FOR HANDLING TNF MODERNIZATION AT THE DPC AND SUMMIT:

(A) FOLLOWING THE APRIL 18-19 MINISTERIAL, THE NPG WOULD FORWARD TO THE DPC THE HLG REPORT, OR (AND WE THINK

PREFERABLE) ONLY SECTION VI WHICH SUMMARIZES THE HLG/NPG CONSENSUS, PLUS ANY FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS DECIDED BY NPG MINISTERS. THUS, THE NPG REPORT TO THE DPC WOULD BE SEPARATE FROM THE REPORT TO DPC ON THE OTHER NINE LTDP TASK FORCES.

(B) THE DPC DOES NOT NEED TO TAKE DECISIONS ON THE TNF REPORT BEYOND ENDORSING THE BROAD DIRECTION FOR MODERNIZATION DEVELOPED IN THE NPG AND TO SUPPORT FURTHER NPG WORK ON FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS.

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PAGE 01 USNATO 03368 02 OF 02 031553Z

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 03368

(C) IN THE DPC REPORT TO THE SUMMIT ON THE LTDP, A BRIEF SECTION COULD BE INCLUDED SUMMARIZING PROGRESS IN THE TNF MODERNIZATION STUDY. THIS SECTION WOULD BE AN INTERIM REPORT, NOTING THAT FURTHER WORK WAS IN TRAIN AND THAT SPECIFICS WERE BEING ADDRESSED IN THE NPG. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE ANY SUCH SECTION SHOULD BE VERY

GENERAL IN ORDER TO AVOID SUBSTANTIVE SUMMIT DISCUSSION THAT COULD DOMINATE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE LTDP AND THE INEVITABLE RISKS OF LEAKS TO THE PRESS.

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PAGE 02 USNATO 03368 02 OF 02 031553Z

(D) IN PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS, AT NPG, DPC OR SUMMIT LEVELS, THE PRINCIPAL QUESTION WILL BE AVOIDING SPECIFIC ATTENTION ON THE "LONGER RANGE" SYSTEMS ISSUE. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO HIGHLIGHT THIS ISSUE, WHICH WOULD BE TOUTED IMMEDIATELY IN THE PRESS AS A MAJOR SHIFT IN ALLIANCE PLANNING, OVERSHADOWING PUBLIC ATTENTION ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE LTDP. IN OUR VIEW, PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ON TNF SHOULD FOCUS ON CONTINUING NATO EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN A MODERN, FLEXIBLE, BALANCED AND SECURE TNF POSTURE AS ONE ELEMENT OF THE NATO TRIAD CREATING A CONTINUUM OF DETERRENCE. THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO KEEP TNF IN PERSPECTIVE AS AN ELEMENT IN A CREDIBLE OVERALL DEFENSE POSTURE. WE BELIEVE THE ALLIES WILL STRONGLY FAVOR AN APPROACH ALONG THESE LINES. (NOTE: WE RECOGNIZE ERW WILL ALSO BE A PUBLIC ISSUE AND RELATED TO TNF MODERNIZATION. HANDLING OF THIS SUBJECT IN CONTEXT OF TNF MODERNIZATION WILL DEPEND ON STATUS OF CONSULTATIONS AT THE TIME).

6. AT THE APRIL 6 NPG PERMREPS' MEETING, WE PROPOSE TO OFFER PRELIMINARY COMMENTS, DRAWING ON POINTS IN PARA 5 ABOVE. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE PRIOR TO APRIL 6 FOR USE AT THE NPG PERMREPS' MEETING. BENNETT

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